

Existing Aircraft Carriers Being 'Beefed Up' So They Can Handle Bigger Planes

By ELTON C. FAY
Associated Press Military
Affairs Reporter

WASHINGTON, June 23 (AP)—The navy is getting a longer-reaching, harder-hitting air arm.

This was the explanation in naval circles today for the carrier modernization plans announced by Secretary of Defense Johnson Tuesday with President Truman's approval. The flight decks of existing carriers are being "beefed up," the ships' elevators are being enlarged and their catapults given greater capacity, to handle new long range patrol bombers and the big jet fighters with high landing and take-off speeds.

With the tempo increased all around, the navy is even putting in escalators to speed the airmen to their planes.

Johnson announced Tuesday that this sort of conversion has been authorized for two more 27,000-ton carriers. Their names were not disclosed, but they will come from the reserve fleet.

The cost of the work was estimated by navy experts at about \$80,000,000 for the two. Johnson said the money would be saved through cancellation of plans to build a 45,000-ton supercarrier. Its cost would have been at least \$189,000,000 and perhaps considerably more.

In a commencement speech at the National War college, Johnson referred to criticism of his order last spring stopping work on the supercarrier United States. He declared some had twisted his action into an interpretation that some national defense leaders were persecuting the navy.

Then he said he wanted it understood he is for carriers. His announcement of the two additional carrier conversions followed.

On Capitol Hill, Johnson's action was viewed by some as a recession from his crackdown order on the supercarrier.

Rep. Short (R-Mo.), ranking republican member of the house armed services committee, said Johnson was "backtracking" and he added that "perhaps after all the navy wasn't so far wrong."

Conversion of two 27,000-tonners—the Essex and Wasp—already is under way. The cost of conversion apparently has risen sharply since work started on those two flattops. A few months ago the estimate for changes on them totaled \$58,400,000, but it is understood the latest estimate has climbed to about \$74,000,000.

Another ship of the 27-ton Essex class, the Oriskany, is being built, scheduled for launching in a year. Improvements planned for the four

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existing ships are being built into the Oriskany.

In addition, the three big 45,000-ton carriers—the Midway, Franklin D. Roosevelt and Coral Sea—already have been converted to handle the new type planes.

Thus, the navy will have eight improved carriers within the next two years, when conversion of the Essex and Wasp can be completed.

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New Method Speeds Water Draining

A ten-year job of draining water-logged soil has been cut to 12 months by a new method invented by a Swedish scientist.

An interesting article telling how this Swede worked from the principle of the oil lamp wick, to accomplish this mammoth under taking, is told in June issue of Science Illustrated.

To Buy! To Sell! To Trade! It Pays to Use the Want Ads!

Seven Basin Girls To Vie For Queen Job

Seven Klamath Basin girls will turn on their charm and personality Saturday night at the armory when they aim for the coveted title, "Queen of the 1949 Klamath Basin Roundup," scheduled here July 2, 3 and 4.

The girls were picked for the finals last Sunday during tryouts at the fairgrounds when they were graded up to 60 points on horse-manship.

The queen aspirants can pick up an extra 40 points toward their total Saturday night.

They are Margie Miller, Klamath Falls; Molly McAuliffe, Malin; Mary Tschirky, Tulelake; Marilyn Johnson, Keno; Sylvia Robinson, Bonanza; Joyce Copeland, Fort Klamath, and Veda Tibbitts, Bly.

A panel of Judges has been chosen for the queen's ball Saturday night but is being secret.

The contestants will be scored up to 20 points on poise, 15 on personality and five points on popularity.

At the end of the dance, the judges will add their scores from last Sunday with their Saturday night tally and the queen will be announced from the armory stage. The other six girls will be princesses for Her Majesty.

Baldy's band will be on deck to furnish the music.

Merrill Firemen Extinguish Blaze

MERRILL, June 23—The Merrill volunteer fire department extinguished a fire which destroyed a freshly-painted automobile and narrowly missed burning the Oregon Trading post at Merrill at about 3:45 Wednesday afternoon.

F. D. Curie, owner of the second hand store, said that he smelled smoke not long after he had gone to the front of the store after finishing a new paint job on the car. By the time he reached the car it was in flames.

Cause of the fire is not known.

Labor To Ask Revisions

EUGENE, June 23 (AP)—The AFL intends to put on the 1950 ballot a proposal to reapportion the state legislature.

A resolution passed at the annual State Federation of Labor convention yesterday directed the executive board to prepare an initiative measure on reapportionment in time for the 1950 election.

The resolution protested that the legislature had ignored a provision in the state constitution requiring reapportionment according to population growth after each census.

In other resolutions delegates urged a shorter work day and asked for measures to cut down noise in offices and work plants.

A proposal for a statewide AFL newspaper ran into trouble. Opponents asked where the money would come from to start the paper. The matter was referred to the executive board for study.

The executive board also got for study a proposal to change the pri-

Stray Bullet Wounds Woman

PRINEVILLE, June 23 (AP)—A small boy took a shot at a blackbird the other day and got Mrs. Charles Smith in the hip.

That's what Sheriff Ralph Jordan said today after an investigation. The bullet whizzed through a screen door and hit Mrs. Smith as she was ironing. The bullet was

nearly spent and caused only a flesh wound.

The sheriff said he and state police dug other .22 caliber bullets from the woodwork of the Smith home. Then he found the youngster, who admitted shooting at birds. The youth was turned over to juvenile authorities but no charges are expected to be filed.

Difference between spiders and insects is in their legs. True spiders have eight legs, while insects have only six.

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